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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE  
THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL  
Paris Riots Spread to 4 Belgian Cities - Bugun  
German Coalition Suggests 'Privileged Relationship' for  
Turkey- Sabah  
Talabani: Independent Kurdistan 'Just a Dream' - Milliyet  
RAI: US Forces Used Chemical Weapons in Fallujah - Milliyet  
Saddam's Lawyer, al-Zubaydi, Killed in Baghdad - Aksam  
74 Turks Killed in Iraq Since March 2003 - Vatan  
Azerbaijani Opposition to Take to Streets - Milliyet  
UN: 3 Million Earthquake Victims Homeless in Pakistan -  
Turkiye  
Russia to Set Up Security Fence along Chechnya Border -  
Turkiye  
Australia Hunts for Terrorists - Sabah  
US, China Agree on Textile Imports - Aksam

OPINION MAKERS  
Gul to Meet Rice, Straw in Bahrain - Cumhuriyet  
Muslim World to Discuss its Future in Bahrain - Zaman  
EU: Turkey Slows Down Reforms - Radikal  
France Applies 'Civil War' Rules against Rioters - Yeni  
Safak  
'Martial Law' in France - Radikal  
Villepin: Riots Have Nothing to do with Headscarves -  
Cumhuriyet  
Barzani: Kurds to Seek Independence if Iraq Goes to Civil  
War - Cumhuriyet

US, EU Urge Baku to Investigate Election Fraud Claims -  
Radikal  
Azerbaijani Opposition to Hold Peaceful Rally in Baku -  
Zaman  
Russia to Build 'Wall of Shame' at Chechnya Border - Yeni  
Safak  
US Religious Freedom Report: Anti-Christian Sentiment on  
Rise in Turkey - Cumhuriyet

#### BRIEFING

Erdogan on Unrest in France: 'I invite the 4.5 million Turks living in European countries to remain calm in the face of acts of violence in Paris,' Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan told his party group on Tuesday. Erdogan said that those who claim to have faced discrimination and unjust treatment cannot acquire their rights by violence, by 'attacking innocent people and their property.' 'It has become a global priority to join hands and establish a world of peace,' Erdogan said. Erdogan said that Turks in Europe should integrate into the societies they live, but also urged governments to implement policies that will pave the way for 'equal rights and opportunities for all parts of society.' 'Mankind should carefully consider the consequences of terrorism and violence, racism and discrimination, and the humiliation of religious beliefs,' he said. Turkish diplomats in France have said that the Turkish community there has not joined in the rioting. The unrest is being closely followed in Turkey, which is seeking to join the European Union despite strong public opposition by many European countries, including France. On Monday,

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Erdogan had linked the riots to a ban on Muslim headscarves in French schools, saying it had contributed to Muslim immigrants' feelings of exclusion and had 'provoked' the unrest. Erdogan said yesterday that the press reports claiming he had identified the ban on Islamic headgear as the main cause for the riots had been 'distorted,' adding that he did attribute the unrest to a single cause.

Gul Due at 'Forum for the Future' in Bahrain: Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul will travel to Bahrain on November 11 to attend a ministerial meeting of the Forum for the Future, papers report. While in Bahrain, Gul is expected to meet with Secretary Rice and Foreign Secretary Jack Straw of Britain. The meeting, which will be joined by the G-8 industrialized nations, will be the second meeting of the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (BMENAI.) Iran boycotted the first meeting, and is not expected to attend the meeting in Bahrain.

Bush to Give the Middle East 'Democracy Money': The Bush Administration is to launch a new initiative in an effort to support democratization and economic development in the Middle East, "Milliyet" reports from Washington. The US initiative, to be announced by Secretary Rice at the meeting in Bahrain on November 12, is being supported by financial contributions from several European countries and Turkey. The initiative to support regional democracy will be allotted 50 million USD, of which 35 million USD will be provided by the United States, 5 million by the EU, and 1 million by Turkey. Secretary Rice will also announce a second fund of more than 100 million USD for the development of small and medium-sized enterprises in the Middle East. Elizabeth Cheney is the 'chief architect' of the US initiatives, "Milliyet" reports.

US Report: Religious Freedoms Deteriorate in Turkey: The US Report on International Religious Freedom for 2005, released yesterday by the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor claims that there has been a deterioration in respect for religious freedom in Turkey over the past year. The report says that Muslims wishing to convert from Islam to another religions sometimes experience

social harassment and violence from relatives and neighbors, and adds that headscarf restrictions remain in effect in universities and public schools. It notes that members of religious minorities are effectively blocked from careers in state institutions. The Directorate of Religious Affairs (Diyanet) initiated a public campaign against Christian missionary activity in the country, the report underlines, adding that high-level government officials made statements depicting missionaries as a threat. The report also notes that there was an increase in anti-Christian media coverage, and that threats and vandalism against Christians and church facilities increased. Meanwhile, the state-run Athens News Agency (ANA) said yesterday that the US report noted that last year, the Turkish government continued to shrug off appeals for the reopening of Halki Seminary in Istanbul. `Given the position of Ankara against the Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew I and the debates over the ecumenical character of the Patriarchate, the report's reference to the activities of the Patriarchate acquires particular importance,' ANA said.

EU Reports on Turkey to be Released Today: Dailies expect the 149-page EU progress report on Turkey to be released today to laud the performance of the Turkish economy, but to highlight shortcomings in the fight against corruption, the independence of the judiciary, the control of military spending, and the protection of religious freedoms. The

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report claims that Turkey's reform process has slowed over the past year, and calls for accelerated progress on freedom of expression and religious minority issues. The report questions why the High Broadcasting Board (RTUK) has still not issued permission for Kurdish language broadcasting on private television stations. The report urges changes in military regulations that would reduce the influence of the military in politics. The report says that military statements should be limited to military, defense, and security issues, and should be made under the auspices of the government. The report argues that Deputy Chief of General Staff (TGS) General Ilker Basbug went too far with his comments regarding the EU progress report in November 2004, and notes that in March 2005 the TGS released a statement criticizing `Nevruz' celebrations. In April 2005, Chief of the TGS General Hilmi Ozkok made detailed comments on domestic and foreign policy issues. The report further claims that the case filed for the closure of the Egitim-Sen teachers' union was filed under military pressure. The accession partnership accord calls on Turkey to normalize ties with all EU countries, including Cyprus. It also urges Turkey to speed up privatization, especially for state-owned banks.

Talabani, Barzani on Kurds' Independence: Turkish papers quote Iraqi President Jalal Talabani as stating in an interview with "La Repubblica" that an independent Kurdistan is `only a dream.' Talabani said the Kurds in the north are striving only for what is possible and achievable. `Democracy and federalism will strengthen the unity of Iraq. It is possible that this will constitute a model for the Middle East,' Talabani said. Talabani noted that Kurds in Turkey must prove wise enough to take advantage of the policies pursued by Prime Minister Erdogan, who has pledged to resolve their problems in a democratic manner. `Turkey's Kurds must avoid violence, condemn terrorism, and put an end to armed activities. They must run for the Turkish parliament in the elections, and join the public debate in their effort to claim their rights. That is the only way for Turkey's Kurds to win in the end,' the President of Iraq said. Meanwhile, Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) leader Massoud Barzani told the London-based "As-Sark al-Avsat" that if civil war breaks out among Shiites and Sunnis in Iraq, the Kurds will inevitably seek `full independence.' Barzani added, however, that as long as the Sunnis and Shiites in Iraq comply with the new constitution, the Kurdish population in northern Iraq will respect it as well.

US Allegedly Used Chemical Weapons in Fallujah: Turkish dailies report that some US soldiers told the Italian broadcaster RAI that the US had used chemical weapons during the military operation launched against Fallujah last year. A documentary aired on RAI claimed that US authorities had removed the evidence that would have proven the use of 'white phosphorus bombs' against civilians in Fallujah. The US rejected the charges, saying that phosphorus bombs were used only to illuminate targets during clashes.

Pentagon Prohibits Torture of Captives: The US Defense Department issued a policy directive prohibiting the application of physical or mental torture during military interrogations of detainees from Afghanistan and Iraq, Turkish papers report. The directive calls for the humane treatment of all captured personnel.

Istanbul Mayor Sacks Aides: Istanbul Mayor Kadir Topbas, in a surprise move, sacked his aides known to be close to Prime Minister Erdogan, papers report. In a statement yesterday, Topbas announced that under a new system, other municipality

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officials will not be allowed to sign documents on behalf of the mayor of Istanbul. Papers speculate that deputy mayor Idris Gulluce, Secretary-General Ramazan Evren and his deputy Mihmail Mangan were forced to resign over disagreements with Topbas and claims of irregularities in the municipal administration. Gulluce had been criticized for signing a controversial decision to authorize construction of a mosque in the Goztepe neighborhood and a new bridge over the Bosphorus without consulting Topbas. The fact that the popularity of the ruling AK Party had declined by 13 percent in Istanbul was another factor in the decision.

Germany Sells 298 Leopard-2 Tanks to Turkey: Germany agreed to sell Turkey 298 surplus Leopard-2 tanks, German officials said yesterday. The German Defense Ministry declined to give a price for the sale, but it is known that Berlin sold 333 of the same tanks to Greece last August for 270 million Euros. The sale of tanks to Turkey drew sharp criticism in the past due to concerns over Turkey's commitment to human rights and its treatment of its Kurdish minority. Such concerns have eased in light of recent Turkish reforms implemented as part of the country's EU drive.

Al-Qaida Seeks Turkish Recruits: An organization of German policemen (BDK) said that al-Qaida had called on Turks to join Holy War (Jihad) in websites launched in Turkish, "Cumhuriyet" reports from Frankfurt. BDK chief Klaus Jansen warned that the terror organization may succeed in convincing young Turks with its 'poisonous' messages. Jansen noted that Turks account for 2.4 million of Germany's total Muslim population of 3.2 million. He stressed that Germany could face riots similar to those now taking place in France.

74 Turks Killed in Iraq Since March 2003: Information issued by officials at the Habur border gate indicates that 74 Turkish nationals have been killed in Iraq since the US-led invasion of the country in March 2003. The 74 Turkish nationals killed in Iraq include drivers, businessmen, and laborers. Thirty-six of those killed lost their lives in traffic accidents. Mosul has proven to be the most dangerous place for Turks working in Iraq, according to the figures. Five Turkish nationals are currently missing in Iraq: Seyhmus Ilan and Ibrahim Kilicparlar (Mardin,) Seyhmus Karatas (Diyarbakir,) Mehmet Nuri Kurtok (Sirnak,) and Halef Kunefeli (Sanliurfa.)

Independent MPs Join AKP: Former Republican People's Party (CHP) lawmakers Naci Aslan and Muharrem Eskiyapan joined the ruling AK Party (AKP) at a ceremony with PM Erdogan on Tuesday. The current distribution of seats in the

parliament is as follows: AKP 357, CHP 154, ANAP 22, SHP 4, DYP 4, HYP 1, Independent 4, Vacant 4.

#### EDITORIAL OPINION: Paris Burning

"France in the Sickbed"

Sami Kohen wrote in the mainstream daily "Milliyet" (11/9): "The blazing flames in Paris have helped the people of France and all over the world to see the serious illness within the French system. The main reason for the dangerous spread of these incidents lies in the integration model of the French Republic. In theory, France considers all its citizens equal and aims to eliminate the distinct identities of its immigrants. In practice, however, this policy discriminates against immigrants of African origin. For example, these immigrants do not have equal opportunity for

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employment. . So far, neither religion nor ideology appears to be a significant factor in these incidents. In other words, this is neither a 'Muslim uprising' nor a 'French intifada.' Representatives of the Muslims living in the ghettos are criticizing those involved in the violence. Turkish Associations in France are giving similar messages. So at this point there is no need to refer these incidents as an indication of a 'clash of civilizations'. Avoiding such incidents in the future depends on the establishment of order in the French suburbs and in other European countries."

"This is a Civil War"

Erdal Guven argued in the conservative "Tercuman" (11/9): "The events in France have gone beyond popular unrest and have turned into a civil war. The reason for the bloodshed in the streets concerns the denial of minority rights in France. Local administrations have been provided increased authorities, and now have the option of imposing a curfew. French politicians, interestingly enough, always know how to give lessons in democracy to everyone except themselves. This is reflected in their discrimination among citizens of France. The fact is that France has become one of the most dangerous countries in the world. . These events are now spreading to other countries in the EU. The recent street riots caused by ethnic groups in Germany and Belgium demonstrate that some other EU countries are also not granting equal rights to all of their citizens. This is all very interesting, and comes at a time when the European Commission issues its 'progress report' on Turkey and talks about shortcomings in democratization and human rights in this country."

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